

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 107

BY SENATOR MURRAY

VOTERS/VOTING. Provides for consistency of presentation of political party affiliations on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration cards and precinct registers. (1/1/13)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D), relative to the Louisiana Election Code; to provide for consistency of presentation of political party affiliations on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration cards and precinct registers; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§107. Party affiliation not required for registration; change in party affiliation

A. An applicant need not be a member of a political party or declare a party affiliation in order to be registered, but in such case the ~~word~~ **words** "~~None~~" "**no party**" or an **abbreviation thereof** on the application form shall be circled.

* * *

D. If a registrant has registered with a declaration of party affiliation and afterwards desires to affiliate with no party, he shall make written application therefor to the registrar, and the registrar shall enter in the registrant's information

1 on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is
2 available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application form, the
3 ~~word~~ **words "NONE" "no party" or an abbreviation thereof** and the date of the
4 change.

5 * * *

6 §109. Notice of registration and change in registration

7 After receiving from the registrar the information concerning a new registrant
8 or the information concerning a change made with respect to the registration of any
9 person, the Department of State promptly shall mail a notice to the appropriate
10 registrar that the person is registered or that his registration has been changed. The
11 registrar shall then mail a notice, postage prepaid, to each new registrant and to each
12 person whose registration was changed in any manner a notice that he is registered
13 or that his registration has been changed. The notice shall show the parish, ward,
14 precinct, **and** registration address, ~~and party affiliation~~ of the registrant. **The notice**
15 **shall list an abbreviation of the name of the political party if the registrant is**
16 **registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party, "other" if the**
17 **registrant is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not**
18 **recognized, or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if the registrant is**
19 **registered with no political party affiliation.** However, the registrar shall not be
20 required to send such a notice to any voter who has been on the inactive list of voters
21 for at least two years unless the change in registration involves a change in the
22 voter's address. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form to be used on the
23 notice; however, the front of the notice shall contain directions to the postmaster to
24 "deliver only as addressed; otherwise return to sender; address correction requested",
25 and the return address shall be that of the registrar. When a notice is returned by the
26 postmaster, the registrar shall proceed in accordance with the applicable provisions
27 of Part V of this Chapter.

28 * * *

29 §463. Notice of candidacy; financial disclosure; political advertising; penalties

1 A.(1)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the
 2 candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the parish,
 3 ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote, ~~and the political party, if any, with~~
 4 ~~which he is registered as being affiliated.~~ **The candidate shall list on the notice of**
 5 **candidacy the name of the political party if he is registered as being affiliated**
 6 **with a recognized political party, "other" if he is registered as being affiliated**
 7 **with a political party that is not a recognized political party, or "no party" or**
 8 **an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation.** No
 9 candidate shall change or add his political party designation, for purposes of printing
 10 on the election ballot as required by R.S. 18:551(D), after he has qualified for the
 11 election.

12 * * *

13 §551. Ballots

14 * * *

15 D. Political party designation. The political party designation of a candidate
 16 who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall be listed
 17 on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or
 18 below the candidate's name. If a candidate is affiliated with a political party, but such
 19 party is not a recognized political party, the ~~space~~ **word "other" shall be placed**
 20 after his name ~~shall be left blank~~. If a candidate is not affiliated with any political
 21 party, the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name.
 22 The secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to effectuate the
 23 provisions and purposes of this Subsection.

24 * * *

25 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2013; if vetoed by the
 26 governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on
 27 January 1, 2013, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

The original instrument was prepared by Lauren Bailey. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

Present law provides for the manner in which political party affiliations are presented on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration cards and precinct registers.

Proposed law provides for consistency of presentation of political party affiliations on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration cards and precinct registers.

Proposed law changes references of "none" as a party affiliation to "no party".

Effective January 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Technical amendments adding proper citations
2. Changes references of "none" as a party affiliation to "no party".

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Technical amendments changing punctuation.
2. Changes references of "word" to "words".